B1-B2 Intermediate: The Passive Voice (Present & Past)

Focus on the Action

Welcome to our lesson! Today, we will explore the **passive voice**. Sometimes, the action itself is more important than who performed it.

You will learn how to shift the focus of your sentences using both the **present** and **past passive** forms.

Warm-up Questions

1. Do you know where your smartphone **was made?**
2. What language **is spoken** most often in your household?
3. Think of a famous monument. When **was it built?**
4. How is coffee usually **prepared** in your country?



eslclassplans.com

Grammar Rules: The Passive Voice (Present & Past)

We use the passive voice when the object of the action is more important than the subject (the "doer").

Present Passive: **am / is / are + past participle**

- Active: They clean the office every day.
- Passive: **The office is cleaned** every day.

Past Passive: **was / were + past participle**

- Active: Thomas Edison invented the lightbulb.
- Passive: The lightbulb **was invented by** Thomas Edison.

Note: We use **"by"** if we need to mention who did the action.



eslclassplans.com

Complete The Sentences

Please fill in the blanks using either the present passive passive or past passive form of the verbs in brackets:



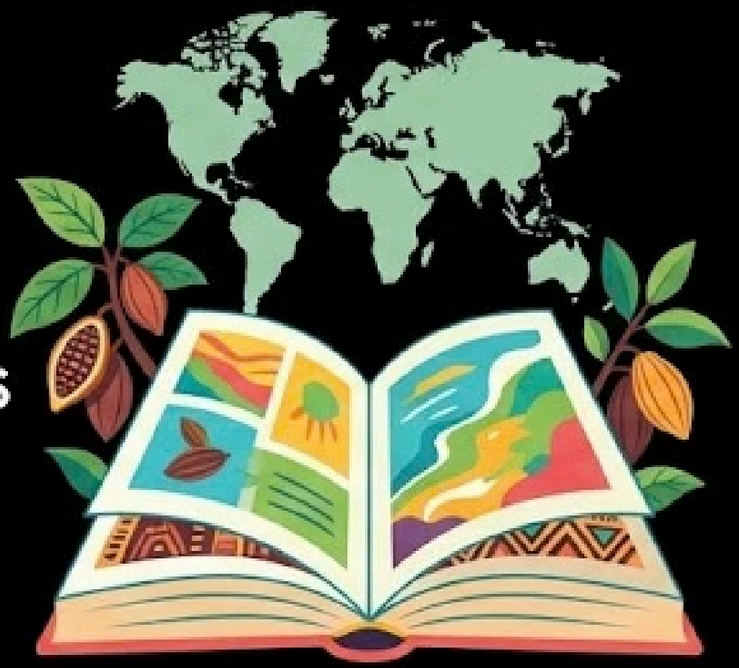
1. The Harry Potter books _____ **(write)** by J.K. Rowling.
2. Millions of emails _____ **(send)** every single day.
3. My bicycle _____ **(steal)** from the garage last night!
4. Olive oil _____ **(produce)** in many Mediterranean countries.
5. The Eiffel Tower _____ **(complete)** in1889.

eslclassplans.com

Reading Context: The Journey of Cocoa

Read the short text below and identify the passive voice structures:

Chocolate has a fascinating history. First, the cocoa beans **are harvested** by hand in tropical climates. Then, they **are dried** in the sun for several days. Historically, the first chocolate drink **was created by** the ancient Maya thousands of year Later, sugar **was added by** Europeans to make it sweet. Today, chocolate **is enjoyed by** people all over the world.



eslclassplans.com

Role-play Introduction: The Museum Tour

We will now practice what we have learned through a role-play exercise.

The Situation: A guided tour at a historical museum.



Student A: You are the **museum guide**. You explain when things were **discovered** and how they are **kept safe**.
Student B: You are a **curious tourist** asking questions about the **artifacts**.

Let us divide into pairs and review the upcoming scenes.

eslclassplans.com

Role-play Part 1: The Ancient Vase

Student B (Tourist): Excuse me, where **was this vase found**?
Student A (Guide): It **was discovered** in Egypt in 1922.
Student B (Tourist): It looks incredibly fragile. How **is it protected**?
Student A (Guide): It **is kept** in a temperature-controlled glass case, and **it is cleaned by** experts every month.

(Continue the conversation using your own ideas about the vase).



eslclassplans.com

Role-play Part 2: The Royal Diamond

Student B (Tourist): This diamond is beautiful! Who **was it worn by**?

Student A (Guide): It **was worn by** a famous queen in the 18th century.

Student B (Tourist): **Was it ever stolen**?

Student A (Guide): Yes, it **was stolen** twice, but it **was recovered** both times. Today, it **is guarded by** advanced security lasers.

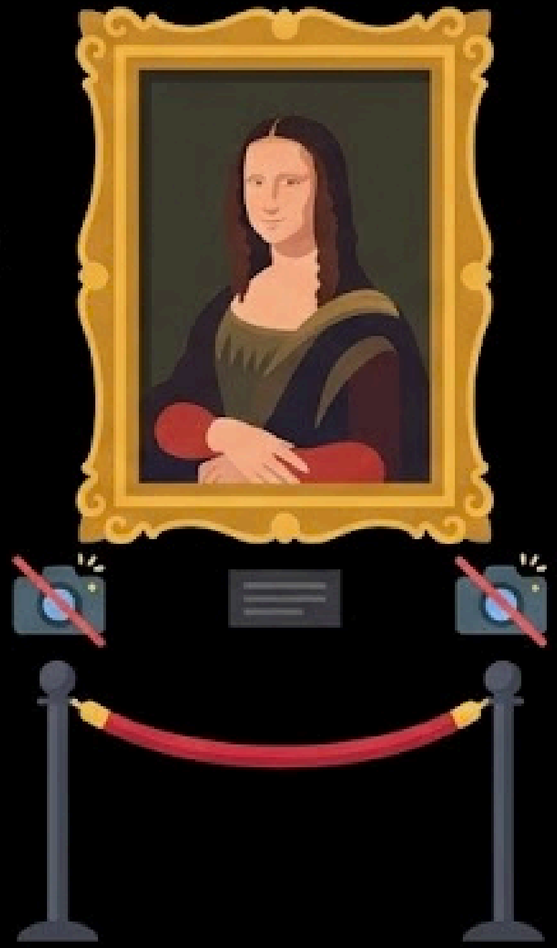
(Continue the conversation, asking about how the diamond is transported or displayed).



eslclassplans.com

Role-play Part 3: The Famous Painting

Student B (Tourist): When **was this portrait painted**?
Student A (Guide): It **was painted** in 1885.
Student B (Tourist): Why **is it kept** in such a dark room?
Student A (Guide): The colors **are easily damaged** by sunlight. Therefore, the room **is kept** dim, and no flash photography **is allowed**.



(Wrap up the tour using passive voice to describe how the museum is funded or maintained).

Review



Let us **review** what we learned today:

- We use the **passive voice** to highlight the **action** or the **object** receiving the action, rather than the **person** doing it.
- **Present Passive:** Subject + **am/is/are** + **Past Participle** (e.g., The museum is cleaned daily.)
- **Past Passive:** Subject + **was/were** + **Past Participle** (e.g., The vase was discovered in 1922.)
- Use **by** to introduce the doer of the action only if it is important information.

eslclassplans.com



THANK YOU

You've completed the class!

See you next time.